
Jerome McCormick

People

1968-10

Correspondence Between Jerome McCormick and Mrs. McCormick (Mother) October 1968 (2)

Jerome McCormick

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1968

Personal.

Kursalon

1010 Johannesgasse. 33

Wien I

Dear Mom,

Got yours yesterday. My plans are moving ahead to go to Italy next month, around the 10th. or so. We are not too busy here but the hours are long. I hope to go to night school here next week. The course is on Wiener, baking etc. most of the checks have returned home after the season here. But one or two are en route to Canada. There seems to be a fair-sized colony of them out there.

Had a letter from Kevin Cummings. He has been in hospital again. The S.A.G. was missing from the back of the envelope this time. It's a wonder it arrived at all.

I have had no word from Pete as yet. But you never know.

my proposed journey from Wien to
Geneva, will take in quite an
amount of Northern Italy. From Wien my
first stop will be either Graz or
Klagenfurt. Next comes Venice (a must),
Genoa, Bologna, Firenze, Pisa, Lucca - Geneva.
I reckon it will take from 10
to 15 days to complete, using the
hitching method. The weather there is
favourable. There is still stuff here to
be sent home. Some kitchen gear which
may be useful to you is included.
Am sending this lot by ordinary mail,
and it may take a while. This
coming trip will be much more
enjoyable with just one bag to carry.
The boots are not all that comfortable, and
I may return them. Send out the sleeping
bag, if possible. It's getting rather cold
here, quite an October nip.

Ireland is not represented on
the European ^{atomic} Nuclear Energy Commission
which is based here in Vienna. The
projects which are organised by the

III
comission are fantastic, mostly based on
agriculture. They range from locust
control to fruit preservation. I spent a
few hours looking at books in their
library. The Irish club here seems to
be nothing more than a coffee bar
with the name, "Irish Espresso. It's
listed in the telephone book as "Irish Club
but when I enquired there, they said
it's a name only. There no chance for
me to do some training, as the
park is too far away. But tomorrow
is my free day and perhaps an hour
or two would be no harm.

The price from the Examiners
was most interesting. Mr. O'Driscoll but the
nail on the head, but I doubt if he
will have any terrific impact on
those Americans. They were rushing
around all last week in the city
looking at all the usual. It
sounds terrible, and we are lucky that
Ireland is not destroyed to the same
extent. You have done your bit in
banning some Irish. It's an example
that we could all follow.

IV The school course should be very interesting next week. Vienna is famous for its (Bäckerei) bakery items. The teacher works at the best bakery in Vienna. "Bertener" the head man at the school has been in Norway and England for a number of years. He has given me much advice.

There hasn't been any mention of Ireland so far in the Olympics. I saw some action on T.V. last night. When I was in Munich I saw the area where the 1972 games will be held. Please God, I will go there for the Olympics in '72.

Tell Dave that if the chance arises then I will have a look at a few butter factories and get some samples. It's great that Alan O'Shea has his days. All though of inviting him over. It would be a nice gesture, and would give him the opportunity of reuniting old friends and relations. That all for now. But don't forget sleeping bag. God bless.
Gai.

Munsalou

Stadpark.

Wien 1.

Tuesday.

Dear Roz,

Hope all is well in Dublin. You should be really settled in by now. I think it's a fine site for a home. The summer season is nearly over here, just a few yanks hanging around. It's mainly a tourist city, with scandalous prices everywhere.

I have high hopes of getting a chance to work with one of the top French chefs. A booklet from the S. Times, gives a list of about 100 of the best chefs owning their own establishments. Even if the work consisted of only ordinary duties, I would have a chance to learn. Of course the language here is my problem among many. The French cooking jargon would be

more familiar to me.
Hope you keep up your arts
and crafts. There are very nice
glazed tiles around here. But it
seem impossible to produce a cheap
souvenir. Tourists are too gullible.
The Stadtpark here is very popular,
with tourists. It has the Strauss
monument, which is being constantly
photographed. On a fine day Peacocks
strut about on the lawns picking up
bits and pieces of food.

The Kunsalon is a large old
restaurant in the grand style. Concerts
are held there every week. My wages
are small about \$5 a week, but I
am very lucky to be working at
all. It's the experience that counts, and
there's a possibility of attending an
evening course on Viennese baking, which
is world renowned. At the moment
I am in the salads section of a
restaurant in the heart of the city,
which is also owned by the Kunsalon
company. We start work at 6 PM, and
finish up at 2 AM. with 1 free day weekly.
The work is not overburdening however.

If the job in the South of France
should materialise, then I shall have
a long journey ahead of me. The
route from Wien - to Nice, would
take me through Graz, - Klagenfurt,
Ljubljana, (Yugoslavia), - Trieste - Genoa,
Geneva - Nice. By hitching it
could take 3 weeks, min 2 weeks.
When I leave Wien in early Nov.
I will have about £30 handy.
This would be sufficient for the
journey. All the time I shall be
using the youth hostels, and cooking my
own grub. Before I leave I will
stock up with such items as rice
maize, salami, salt, sugar, and cocoa,
all my gear fits into a small
zip-bag. It's the only way when travelling
I got so mad with the cars in München
that I went out to the airport and
sent home a load of stuff by air
freight.

Many thanks for the cookery
articles. Since you have the Times daily
please cut out any interesting items
and put by till my return next

march or so. It will depend on the
job in France. for my return home.
more than likely the money won't be
bulging out of my wallet, but it will
have been a worthwhile journey I hope
my room-mate is a Czech, but
with very little communication between us,
as the language is again a problem.
He spent 3 years on and off at hotel
school. The head chef here is Czech-born.
So quite a few of his countrymen have
landed here in the last few months.
Feelings were high during the occupation, but
all has quietened down again. The Czechs
have been Communists all the time and
will continue along the same lines. It
was just a show of strength by the
Russians.

Still no trace of Pete, you
may have heard from Dave all the
information I could gather. There was a
Telegram for him at München which I
collected in order to get information no
more. But it didn't contain anything
to go on. I sent a letter asking him
to reply to me here but nothing since.

On my return home I would be very
interested in working in some small
hotel. Some country place where good
cooking is to be found. If you
come across anything let me know.

I am looking forward to the
travelling during the next few months.
It may be possible to work my
way up through France and home.
all the time I shall be collecting
mosses for my collection. It's a pity
that I shall miss the chefs competition
next Jan. in Dublin. You must go
there if you get the chance. (in the
Mansion House.)

Well its time for me to get
going, write and let me know how
things are in the Dublin end. Hope
Win is in good form as always, and
the lads are getting on O.K. Best love
to all.

Geo.